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JOINT DISTRICTS
of
THE BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH
the
URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS
and
SHEPPEY RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1947

R. DUNCAN DEWAR
M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

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Isle of Sheppey

(Medical Officer of Health)

JOINT COMMITTEE

1947

Chairman :

H. C. LOVE,

Members :

Queenborough Town Council :

ALD. MRS. E. S. WEEKES, J.P.

ALD. G. R. STEVENS, J.P.

Sheerness Urban District Council :

A. G. COATS, J.P.

REV. A. B. MORLEY

C. F. SADDLETON

R. J. DAVIE, C.C.

J. G. WARD

Sheppey Rural District Council :

H. C. LOVE,

T. H. DALE

Clerk

HORACE V. STALLON, Solicitor

Medical Officer of Health :

R. DUNCAN DEWAR, M.B., CH.B., B.SC., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
SHEERNESS.

June, 1948.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Sheppey
Joint Medical Officer of Health Committee.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Isle of Sheppey for the year 1947.

Detailed reports for the three authorities are given in the following pages, but it may be stated here that in general the health of the population was satisfactory. The very severe weather during the early months of the year was responsible for hastening the deaths of some old people as well as creating difficulties in transport and in the supply of water for domestic purposes. The summer as a contrast was remarkably fine and warm. I am again indebted to Mr. E. W. Cooper for the meteorological data which is included at the end of this report.

The epidemic of Infantile Paralysis which affected the whole country during the latter half of the year had little effect here and no permanent residents contracted the disease. During August, 1947, I informed the three Councils of the advice of the specialists of the Ministry of Health concerning the steps to be taken in the event of an outbreak of poliomyelitis in the area. Fortunately it was found unnecessary to take any measures which curtailed the freedom of movement of individuals.

The diphtheria immunisation campaign has been vigorously continued throughout the year, and the numbers of children now protected against this disease is more satisfactory. Information was received throughout the year of persons coming to the area from abroad who had been in contact with smallpox and cholera, but no cases developed here.

It is likely that the National Health Service Act of 1946 will have come into force before this report is published and it may not be inappropriate to make some comment of the changes in preventive medicine which have made it necessary for the responsibility for the local health services to be transferred to the major authorities.

During the last century the sanitary circumstances under which a large proportion of the population lived were appalling, and the gradual improvements in sanitation, housing and water supplies have resulted in a much higher standard of the health of the public. One indication of this is the reduction of the infant mortality rate. In the year 1900 of every 1,000 children born in England and Wales, 154 died during the first year of life; during 1947 these deaths had been reduced to 41. This is a remarkable achievement, but having removed the more obvious causes of illness and death such as neglect, preventable diseases (c.g. diphtheria and smallpox), severe overcrowding, an impure water supply, etc., we are left with a "hard core" of deaths which do not respond to measures designed to preserve health in the mass, but which require more individual treatment. In order to deal with these conditions, infant welfare clinics and ante-natal clinics were established, at first by voluntary organisations and later by local authorities. The preventive services have been gradually so extended and enlarged that it has become evident that for the further preservation of life and improvements in

the standard of health a team of specialists is necessary. The children's specialist, the bacteriologist and the gynæcologist are obvious members, but the team must also include specialists in diseases of the eye, the ear, nose and throat, venereal diseases, tuberculosis, mental diseases and orthopædics, specialists in pathology and radiology, health visitors, social workers and many others. Such teams cannot be organised with efficiency and practicability in small areas and the National Health Service Act has consequently placed the responsibility for such arrangements on the County Councils and County Borough Councils.

It is not to be assumed that the standards of housing and sanitation are considered to be satisfactory without much further improvement, nor that the defects are entirely due to post-war conditions and shortages. It must not further be assumed that improvements in the local services will arrive automatically when the Act takes effect, but the transfer of responsibility will allow of improvements which would not previously have been possible.

The Local Health Authority for this area will be the Kent County Council and for convenience of administration and in order to preserve as far as possible local initiative and interest, which is so necessary in the personal health services, the county has been divided into seven areas which are related to the principal general hospitals. One of the objections to the National Health Service Act has been the placing of the control of the Hospital services, the Local Authority services and the General Practitioners' services under three separate bodies. It is hoped that the method of relating the local services to hospital areas in Kent and the joint use of specialists will maintain the intimate contact between curative and preventive medicine.

With the provision of medical attention for all without the payment of fees, those services which have been largely supported by voluntary contributions such as the voluntary hospitals and some of the ambulance and nursing services, will be absorbed in the general health service and will lose their voluntary nature. This does not mean that voluntary effort will no longer be required. Infant Welfare and other clinics will still require voluntary help if they are to function efficiently. The lives of hospital patients may be made happier by the provision of flowers, books and of toys for children, but these cannot always be properly provided out of public money. The provision for the aged and aged sick is inadequate at present and will remain so for a long time. Voluntary services might do much to improve the lot of many of these old and lonely people. The National Assistance Act of 1948 will also allow of voluntary help for other groups of persons. It is impossible to foresee all the gaps which may occur during the early stages of the new service but I believe that many of these gaps when and if they become evident will be bridged by voluntary effort until the National Health Service has overcome its "teething troubles."

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to you for your help and encouragement, to the staffs of all three authorities and to my own staff for their willing assistance at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. DUNCAN DEWAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF
MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1947

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION			ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION							
	Live Births	Still- Births	Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza
England and Wales ...	20·5	0·50	...	12·0	0·00	0·00	0·01	0·00	0·02	0·01	0·09
Borough of Queenborough ...	24·6	0·00	...	11·3	0·00	0·00	0·34	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Sheerness Urban District ...	24·9	0·56	...	13·8	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·14	0·21	0·14
Sheppey Rural District ...	26·3	0·35	...	13·2	0·00	0·00	0·23	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY

	Queenborough				Sheerness				Sheppey Rural				England & Wales			
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1944	1945	1946	1947	1944	1945	1946	1947	1944	1945	1946	1947
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	14.3	67.8	27.0	55.5	32.6	25.9	56.3	28.0	54.6	5.5	38.0	44.6	46.0	46.0	43.0	41.0
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) per 1,000 related births	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.68	1.9	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	5.6	4.4	5.8
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 total (live and still) births	0.0	0.0	13.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.93	1.79	1.43	1.17
Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.50	3.63	3.29	2.74	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.4	10.3	9.93	8.50	7.16
Still-births per 1,000 of population	1.13	0.0	0.68	0.0	0.77	0.38	0.14	0.56	0.14	1.05	0.49	0.35	0.50	0.46	0.53	0.50

VITAL STATISTICS

Queenborough, Sheerness and Sheppey Rural, 1944-45-46-47

District	Year	Live Births			Deaths			
		Estimated Population	Total	Illegitimate and Rate per cent	Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population	Total	Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	Infant Deaths under 1 year
								Illegitimate
Queenborough	1944	2,648	70	5 or 7.1%	26.4	25	9.4	1
	1945	2,685	59	3 or 5.1%	21.9	38	14.2	4
	1946	2,901	74	5 or 6.8%	25.5	31	10.7	2
	1947	2,921	72	1 or 1.4%	24.6	33	11.3	4
Sheerness	1944	12,910	276	13 or 4.7%	21.4	151	11.7	9
	1945	13,280	270	30 or 11.1%	20.3	171	12.9	7
	1946	14,070	302	20 or 6.6%	21.4	183	13.0	17
	1947	14,320	357	22 or 6.1%	24.9	198	13.8	10
Sheppey Rural	1944	7,217	183	9 or 4.9%	25.4	83	11.5	10
	1945	7,599	183	15 or 8.2%	24.1	71	9.3	1
	1946	8,236	184	11 or 6.0%	22.3	96	11.6	7
	1947	8,504	224	15 or 6.7%	26.3	112	13.2	10
								Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births
								0
								14.3
								67.8
								27.0
								55.5
								32.6
								25.9
								56.3
								28.0
								54.6
								5.5
								38.0
								44.6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. CASE RATE

Case Rate per 1,000 Population																
	Queenborough				Sheerness				Sheppey Rural				England and Wales			
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1944	1945	1946	1947	1944	1945	1946	1947	1944	1945	1946	1947
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Scarlet Fever	3.39	0.00	2.06	1.71	1.01	0.82	0.78	0.56	0.42	0.53	0.48	0.82	2.40	1.89	1.38	1.37
Whooping Cough	5.28	0.74	0.00	3.42	1.78	0.22	1.56	5.51	11.22	0.53	0.73	9.41	2.49	1.64	2.28	2.22
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.07	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.12	0.58	0.46	0.28	0.13
Erysipelas	0.00	0.37	0.00	0.68	0.15	0.22	0.28	0.42	0.55	0.13	0.73	0.23	0.29	0.25	0.22	0.19
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	4.90	42.04	1.37	18.83	0.46	15.28	2.98	16.68	1.94	24.98	1.94	22.58	4.16	11.67	3.92	9.41
Pneumonia	0.00	0.37	0.34	0.00	1.01	1.13	0.57	1.12	4.85	2.76	3.03	2.59	0.97	0.87	0.89	0.79

Queenborough Town Council

1947

Mayor : ALDERMAN MRS. E. S. WEEKES, J.P.

Deputy Mayor : ALDERMAN G. R. STEVENS

Aldermen :

J. S. BILLS, J.P.

R. J. JENNINGS, C.C.

Councillors :

MRS. M. DOBNER

MISS D. L. WOOD

J. BENTLEY

G. H. BOURNE

F. E. CACKETT

E. G. DINES

B. M. LUCK

W. L. E. MASON

E. THOMPSON

W. J. UNDERWOOD

W. C. T. WEEKES

R. J. WELLARD

Town Clerk : F. MARSHALL

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector : W. F. DODDS

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

SHEERNESS.

June, 1948.

To the Town Council of Queenborough.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I am able to report that the health of the people of Queenborough was maintained at a satisfactory level during 1947.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified was higher than in the previous year but the increase was mainly confined to cases of whooping cough and measles. There were no cases of diphtheria and no cases of poliomyelitis amongst the residents of the town.

Good progress was made in the building of new houses for the Council. The programme had been delayed during 1946, but in 1947 progress was so good that the number of permanent houses completed by the Council in the one year was, in proportion to the population, almost as high as the number of temporary and permanent houses completed by the other two Island authorities during the two year period.

Byelaws for the Regulation of Offensive Trades had been in operation in the past, but had expired. New byelaws made under Section 108 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were brought into operation in January, 1947.

I have to thank you and your staff for the assistance and encouragement which has been given to me throughout the year.

Your obedient servant,

R. DUNCAN DEWAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH

Area (acres)	{	Land	...	...	...	725	}	1,441 acres
		Water	...	...	...	263		
		Foreshore	...	...	...	453		

Population estimated for mid-1947 by Registrar-General	...	2,921
Number of inhabited houses in 1947	...	837
Rateable Value	...	£17,000
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£67

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births	Total	Male	Female		
Legitimate	71	39	32	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the	
Illegitimate	1	1	0	estimated resident popula-	
Total	72	40	32	tion	24.6
Still Births—	0	0	0	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	0.0
Deaths—	33	22	11	Death Rate per 1,000 of the	
				estimated resident popula-	11.3
				tion	

Deaths from puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	—
Other puerperal causes	0	—
Total	0	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	55.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	56.3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

The estimated mid-year population for 1947 was 2,921, an increase of 20 over the figure for 1946.

The number of live births was 72, which gives a birth rate of 24.6 per 1,000 of the population. This rate is 0.9 below the rate for 1946, but it is still 4.1 above the rate for England and Wales. The number of deaths was 33, which is equivalent to a death rate of 11.3 per 1,000 of the population. Of these deaths 4 occurred in infants below the age of one year. There were no maternal deaths.

The infant mortality rate is so variable in a small community as to be quite unreliable as a guide to the health of the district. The rate has varied between 14.3 and 67.8 during the past five years, but the average rate for the five years is 41.5, which is somewhat lower than the average for England and Wales.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of infectious diseases notified was considerably higher than in the previous year, the increase being due to cases of measles and whooping cough. Both these diseases occurred nearly twice as frequently as in England and Wales as a whole, but they occurred slightly less frequently than in adjoining areas of the Island. One child died from measles. There were no cases of diphtheria.

POLIOMYELITIS

One case of poliomyelitis occurred in a service man stationed in the area. It was reported that he had been exposed to infection in another area. No cases of infantile paralysis were reported amongst the resident population of the town.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Provided by the Kent County Council. Clinics are held at the Welfare Hut, Whiteway Road, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month at 2 p.m. Medical Officer : Dr. Jill Hutt.

INFANT WELFARE

Clinics are provided by the Kent County Council and are held at the Welfare Hut every Monday at 1.30 p.m. Medical Officer : Dr. Jill Hutt.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation is carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinics and also by general medical practitioners. Payment is made for these services by arrangement with the Kent County Council. In addition I have carried out the immunisation of school children at the schools and at the school clinic.

The position at the end of 1947 was as follows :—

	Age groups in years			
	0-4	5-9	10-14	0-14
Children given a full course of immunisation during 1947	56	81	68	205
Children given reinforcing doses during 1947	1	120	122	243
Total numbers now fully immunised ...	174	221	208	603
% of children fully immunised	58.0	91.2		78.3

The increase in the number of children protected against this disease is very satisfactory.

VACCINATION

The following figures have been supplied by the Public Vaccinator, Dr. H. A. Madwar.

Primary vaccinations during 1947	...	...	43
Re-vaccinations during 1947	...	...	2

FEVER HOSPITAL

Keycol Hill Isolation Hospital, under the management of the Sittingbourne and Milton Joint Hospital Board, normally takes all infectious cases requiring hospital treatment and special arrangements exist for the treatment of smallpox and ophthalmia neonatorum. Five cases of infectious disease were admitted to the hospital during the year.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

These duties are carried out by Nurse Deegan, of 55, Harold Street, for the Queenborough District Nursing Association. The Kent County Council is the supervising authority:

HOME HELPS

A Home Help Scheme provided by the County Council is in operation in the Borough.

HOSPITAL

Provision is made for in-patient treatment of medical, surgical and maternity cases at the County Hospital, Minster.

Out-patient sessions are held at the following times :

Monday, 2 p.m.	Surgical	Dr. P. Berry
Monday, 2 p.m.	Ante-Natal	Dr. F. Schmelz
Tuesday, 2 p.m.	Medical	Dr. D. H. Mills
Wednesday, 2 p.m.	Gynæcological	Dr. F. Schmelz
Thursday, 2 p.m.	Surgical	Dr. W. L. Wills

In addition Mr. J. H. Mayer attends at the Orthopædic Clinic on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m., and Mr. E. P. Gill attends the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic at the hospital on the first, third and fifth Monday of each month at 10 a.m. X-ray facilities are also available at the hospital.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Borough owns and maintains an Ambulance and part-time drivers and attendants from the St. John Ambulance Brigade give their services voluntarily.

PATHOLOGICAL SERVICE

The County Laboratory is situated at the County Hall, Maidstone, and provides a free and comprehensive service for medical practitioners. Routine samples of water and milk are sent to the Laboratory for examination. Assistance is also available in the event of epidemics.

TUBERCULOSIS

The Visiting Tuberculosis Officer is Dr. S. Roy C. Price, and the Clinic is held at Granville Villa, Granville Road, Sheerness, on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of the month from 12 noon until 2 p.m.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The Visiting Venerologist is Dr. Ockwell and the Clinic is held at 61, Alma Road, Sheerness, men attending from 10-11 a.m. and women from 11-12 noon every Saturday.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

This service is under the control of Dr. A. Elliott, School Medical Officer for the County.

All County Primary and County Modern Schools are visited twice a year, and the County Technical School every term. During school life a child is examined four times ; if any diseases or defects requiring treatment or observation are detected, then further examinations are made at subsequent visits.

The Kent Education Committee provides a service of specialists for the treatment of teeth, eye and ear, nose and throat, orthopædic cases and psychological cases, while minor ailments are dealt with at the School Clinic, Granville Road, Sheerness.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.
WATER

The town's water supply is obtained from two boreholes on Rushenden Hill. There are two reservoirs at the pumping station which have together a capacity of 255,000 gallons or approximately 2½ days' supply. The rest level of the water was 160 feet below the surface and over a long period this level has been found to drop about one foot per year. The bores are capable of yielding about 200,000 gallons per day, but only about half this amount is pumped daily. The average amount supplied for domestic purposes is 70,000 gallons or 24 gallons per head per day. The water pressure in the mains is low in some parts of the town during parts of the day so that some houses have in effect an intermittent supply. Plans have been prepared for improving some of the water mains, and it is hoped that when these are laid the supply of water for domestic purposes will be satisfactory in all parts of the town.

Until July, 1947, eighteen houses were supplied with water from the Southern Railway Pumping Station, but as the water was not chlorinated and bacteriological reports did not show the water to be of a satisfactory standard for domestic use, arrangements were made to connect these houses to the main town supply.

The bacteriological examinations are summarised below :—

Source of supply	No. of samples taken	Number of organisms per cc capable of growth at				Number of samples in which <i>B. coli</i> (presumptive) present in 100 cc or less
		Average of all samples 37°C	Highest in any sample	Average of all samples 22°C	Highest in any sample	
Rushenden Hill Pumping Station						
Untreated	2	3	5	14	20	0
Rushenden Hill Pumping Station						
Treated	13	1	6	17	54	2
Southern Railway Pumping Station						
Untreated	10	18	87	93	443	7

One sample from the Rushenden Hill Pumping Station contained a typical *B. coli* in 80 cc. The *B. coli* which were found in other samples were not typical.

Chemical analysis of the Rushenden Hill supply on 10th September, 1947, was as follows :—

	Parts per 100,000
Total solid residue	60.5
Chlorine	5.9
Free Ammonia	none
Albuminoid Ammonia	none
Nitrogen as Nitrates	none
Nitrogen as Nitrites	none
Oxygen absorbed $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 26.7°C	0.009
Oxygen absorbed 4 hours at 26.7°C	0.022
Hardness : Permanent	14.2
Temporary	28.2
Total	42.4
Toxic metals	not detected
Free chlorine on receipt	none

The water is of satisfactory organic quality, and on the above chemical analysis, fit for drinking.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewage collects by gravity into two main sewers each one of which has a tide lock storage tank. From the tanks the sewage escapes by gravity to the sea. One outfall is at the Town Quay and the other is at the Chalk Wharf. The sewage is not treated in any way before its discharge into the sea.

The only alterations to the drainage system were two short extensions for the new houses in Borough Road.

HOUSING

The housing programme had suffered considerable delay during 1946, and at the beginning of 1947 no new houses had been completed. By the end of the year 20 permanent houses had been completed for the Council and a further 12 were under construction, and in addition 3 houses were under construction by private enterprise. The completed houses represent an increase of approximately $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ in the number of inhabited houses in the town and it is very satisfactory to record that in spite of the preliminary delays the housing programme has almost equalled those of the other two Island authorities where the difficulties of obtaining labour and materials are very similar.

A.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

- | | | |
|-------|---|-----|
| 1 (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 58 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 134 |
| 2 (a) | Number of houses (included under sub-head 1 (a) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regs., 1925 and 1932 | Nil |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | Nil |

3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
4	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	57

B.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	33
--	----

C.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

1	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(i)	by owners	Nil
(ii)	by Local Authority in default of owner ...	Nil
2	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	Nil
3	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(b)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Number of visits of all kinds made by the Inspector ... 272

Notices served :—

Statutory	1
Informal	63

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year :—

Defective sanitary accommodation	3
Drainage repaired	7
Drainage cleansed	12
Water supplies	5
Refuse receptacles	26
Dampness	15
Roofs and rain water pipes	4
Floors	9
Walls and ceilings	1
Windows and ventilation	1
Miscellaneous	1

Premises or Occupations controlled by Byelaws or Regulations :—

	No. in District	No. of visits in 1947	No. of defects and faults found	No. of faults and defects remedied
Bakehouses	1	4	—	—
Dairies	3	12	—	—
Slaughterhouses—licensed	1	3	—	—
Other food preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection	1	4	—	—
Offensive Trades	1	41	7	7

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :

	Number on Register	Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	—	—	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	10	40	—	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	—	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found :—

	No. found	No. remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions
Sections 1 to 6	Nil	—	—	—	—
Section 7 — insufficient sanitary conveniences	2	—	—	2	—

3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111) : Nil.

UNSOUND FOOD

The amount of food condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption was 79lbs.

Meat	...	...	...	...	39lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	40lbs.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Number of rooms disinfected after cases of infectious disease ...	7
Number of rooms disinfested for verminous conditions ...	3
Number of Council houses disinfested for verminous conditions ...	Nil

MILK SUPPLY

Number of producers	...	...	...	2
Number of producer retailers	...	...	...	1
Number of retailers	...	...	...	4

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to Mr. S. Strugnell, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the Borough of Queenborough during the year 1947.

Article	Number of samples	Article	Number of samples
Boracic Ointment	... 1	Fish Paste	... 2
Butter	... 1	Gelatine	... 2
Coffee	... 1	Gin	... 1
Cooking Fat	... 1	Iodine	... 1
Cough Mixture	... 1	Lime Juice	... 1
Dessert Sauce Powder	... 1	Margarine	... 1
Milk	... 54	Mint	... 1
Pepper	... 1	Soup	... 1
Spirits	... 1		

All samples genuine with the exception of the following :—

Milk. 23.3% deficient in fat. Further samples taken and found to be genuine.

Milk. 20% deficient in fat. Advice given, and further samples found to be genuine.

Milk. 18.3% deficient in fat. Advice given, and further samples found to be genuine.

Gin. 14.2% excess water. Proceedings. Fined £10 and £3/3/0 costs.

MALARIA

Routine spraying with oil of the ditches and standing water was carried out throughout the summer months and this helped to lessen the nuisance caused by mosquitoes. The unusually dry summer also helped to eliminate many of the breeding places in gardens and private property, but mosquitoes and other biting insects caused a good deal of discomfort.

No cases of malaria were notified during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1947

Compared with 1946, 1945, 1944 and 1943

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Death rate per 1,000 of population	11·2	9·4	14·2	10·7	11·3
Infant Mortality per 1,000 births ...	41·1	14·3	67·8	27·0	55·5
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	27·2	26·4	21·9	25·5	24·6
Notifiable Infectious Diseases, excluding Tuberculosis ...	164	36	117	12	72
Cases of Smallpox ...	0	0	0	0	0
Cases of Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0
Cases of Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0
Cases of Scarlet Fever ...	27	9	0	6	5
Cases of Malaria ...	0	0	0	0	0
Cases of Whooping Cough ...	2	14	2	0	10
Cases of Tuberculosis notified ...	6	1	2	1	3
Deaths from Tuberculosis ...	3	4	4	3	1

INFANT MORTALITY

Causes of Deaths of Infant under one year of age.

Month	Sex	Age	Cause
April	Male	4 months.	Broncho pneumonia.
January	Male	8 months.	Acute gastro enteritis.
July	Male	1 week.	Extreme prematurity.
January	Female	2 days.	Prematurity. Congenital heart disease.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1947

Net deaths at the subjoined ages of residents, whether occurring within or without the district.

Causes of Death	MALES								
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 years and over
Typhoid & parat. fevers ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ac. polio-myel & polio-enceph	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ac. inf. encephalitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer, buc., cav, & oesoph. (M) ; uterus (F) ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer, stomach & duodenum	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cancer, breast ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer, all other sites ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Diabetes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Heart Disease ...	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Other circulatory diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other respiratory diseases ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Ulcer, stomach or duodenum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appendicitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other digestive diseases ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Nephritis ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Puerperal & post-abor. sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other maternal causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Premature birth ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital mal., birth injury, infant diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicide ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Road traffic accidents ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other violent causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All other causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All causes	22	3	0	0	1	0	2	5	11

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1947

Net deaths at the subjoined ages of residents, whether occurring within or without the district.

Causes of Death	FEMALES								
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 years and over
1 Typhoid & parat. fevers ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Syphilitic diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Influenza ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 Ac. polio-myel & polio-enceph ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Ac. inf. encephalitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 Cancer, buc., cav, & oesoph. (M) ; uterus (F) ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 Cancer, stomach & duodenum ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 Cancer, breast ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 Cancer, all other sites ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17 Diabetes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
19 Heart Disease ...	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
20 Other circulatory diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 Bronchitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22 Pneumonia (all forms) ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23 Other respiratory diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24 Ulcer, stomach or duodenum ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26 Appendicitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27 Other digestive diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28 Nephritis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29 Puerperal & post-abor. sepsis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 Other maternal causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 Premature birth ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32 Congenital mal., birth injury, infant diseases ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33 Suicide ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34 Road traffic accidents ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 Other violent causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36 All other causes ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
All causes	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1947

Disease	Notified			Number removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths registered.
	Total	Males	Females		
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	5	1	4	5	0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	2	1	1	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1*	1	0	1	0
Measles	55	27	28	0	1
Whooping Cough	10	5	5	0	0
Chicken Pox	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	73	35	38	7	1

* Non-civilian.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	At all ages	At Ages and Years											
		Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	15 to 20 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 and over
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Measles	55	2	1	4	9	8	28	1	0	1	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	10	2	0	3	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicken Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	73	5	1	7	11	9	34	1	1	2	1	1	0

TUBERCULOSIS

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 5 years ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 to 15 years ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 to 25 years ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 to 35 years ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
35 to 45 years ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 to 55 years ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 to 65 years ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and over ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Sheerness Urban District Council

1947

Chairman : A. G. COATS, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : J. G. WARD

Councillors :

MRS. A. DURANT, J.P.

MRS. E. TILTMAN

REV. H. BRIDGES

W. C. BUTTERWORTH

R. J. DAVIE, C.C.

REV. A. B. MORLEY

H. E. MORRIS, J.P.

C. F. SADDLETON

A. F. STANDEN

R. W. STONE

Health, Maternity and Infant Welfare Committee :

Chairman : MRS. A. DURANT, J.P.

Councillors :

MRS. E. TILTMAN

A. G. COATS, J.P.

W. C. BUTTERWORTH

H. E. MORRIS, J.P.

J. G. WARD

Co-opted Members :

MRS. HARFOOT

MRS. STOCK

Clerk to the Council : H. V. STALLON, Solicitor

Surveyor : K. SCOTT, M.INST.M. AND CY.E., A.M.I.S.E.

Sanitary Inspector : D. E. JACOB, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Health Visitor : MISS F. G. JONES, S.R.N., S.C.M.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TRINITY ROAD,
SHEERNESS.

June, 1948

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Sheerness Urban District
Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

During 1947 there was a considerable increase in the number of births, together with a marked decrease in the number of infant deaths and although the increase in the birthrate may be only temporary and the infant mortality rate is a notoriously unreliable guide in a small community, the figures are nevertheless very satisfactory for the year.

During the first half of the year ten cases of diphtheria were notified, five of them occurring in persons over fifteen years of age. Three of these cases ended fatally, one being an infant whose parents refused immunisation, and the other two being adults who were also unprotected. In spite of intensive investigation no diphtheria carriers were discovered.

The water supply of the town caused some disquiet. Burst pipes and wastage due to the very severe weather during the first three months of the year caused some difficulties, and breakdown of the pumping equipment on a number of occasions diminished the supply, until on the instructions of the engineer the submersible pumps were modified. Preliminary enquiries were made by the Council as to the advisability of forming a water board for the Isle of Sheppey and meetings were held with the other two Island Authorities.

The housing programme progressed satisfactorily until the autumn, when difficulty in obtaining the special ranges delayed the completion of houses. Many of the older houses, however, are in a bad state and difficulties were experienced in maintaining a reasonable standard in houses which in normal times would be considered unfit for repair. It has, unfortunately, not been possible to make satisfactory progress with the routine housing survey.

A Health and Civic Week was held in September in order to encourage interest in health education and civic matters and to inform the public of the work of the Council in health and housing. The proposed scheme for the reconstruction of the Milc Town area was published at this time.

The increasing popularity of ice cream and the unsatisfactory state of ice cream production and distribution throughout the country resulted in legislation dealing with the heat treatment of this food. Although

lack of equipment has prevented the full implementation of the Regulations a considerable improvement has resulted in this area in the manufacture of ice cream.

The transfer on the 5th July, 1948, of the Welfare responsibilities of the Council to the Kent County Council under the National Health Services Act, 1946, will, no doubt, be regretted by many people in Sheerness who have done so much to provide these services in the past. It is sincerely hoped, however, that the voluntary workers will continue their help and local interest will be maintained in all the services, particularly those relating to mothers and young children.

I would like to thank the Council for the help and encouragement which I have received.

Your obedient servant,

R. DUNCAN DEWAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	961
Population estimated for mid-1947 by Registrar-General	...						14,320
Number of inhabited houses in 1947	...	...	...	...			4,013
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£108,018
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...			£416

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births—	Total	Male	Female	
Legitimate	335	151	184	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 24.9
Illegitimate	22	13	9	
Total	357	164	193	
Still Births—	8	4	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births 21.9
Deaths—	198	111	87	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.8

Deaths from puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	—
Other puerperal causes	0	—
Total	0	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	28.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	45.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	26.9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

The population as estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-1947 was 14,320. This is an increase of 250 over the estimated figure for 1946.

The total number of live births registered during the year was 357, which is equivalent to a birth rate of 24.9 per 1,000 of the population. This rate is 4.4 above that for England and Wales and 3.5 above the rate for 1946 in Sheerness. Illegitimate births numbered 22 or 6.1% of the total live births.

This increase in the number of births is very satisfactory and it is to be hoped that the increase is not merely temporary as occurred in the years following the first World War. Still births numbered 8, giving a still birth rate of 0.56 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 0.50 for England and Wales.

The number of deaths registered during 1947 was 198, giving a death rate of 13.8 per 1,000 of the population, the corresponding figure for England and Wales being 12.0. There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

The number of infants who died before reaching the age of 1 year was 10, giving an infant mortality rate of 28.0 per 1,000 live births. This is half the rate for the previous year, but the figures are so small that they are an unreliable guide. The average infant mortality rate over the past five years, however, is only 40 per 1,000 live births and this compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 10 cases of Diphtheria during the year and three of these patients died. As the majority of these cases were in older children or in adults, the tracing and examination of contacts presented some difficulty. An intensive investigation did not establish the mode of infection and no true diphtheria carriers were discovered. There were 79 cases of whooping cough notified and two infants died from this disease. There were no deaths from any of the other acute notifiable infectious diseases nor any significant increase in notifications.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified was 20 as compared with 15 in 1946 and there were 3 deaths compared with 7 during the previous year. The increase in notifications may perhaps be partly due to a better ascertainment of the disease following a visit by the Mass Radiography Unit to this area.

POLIOMYELITIS

The epidemic of poliomyelitis which affected the whole country during the latter half of 1947 did not give rise to any cases in Sheerness.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

The Ante-Natal Clinic is held at the Welfare Centre, Marine Parade, every Thursday. It is normally conducted by both the Medical Officer of Health and Dr. M. F. McNamara and one of the midwives from the Lethbridge Nursing Society attends in order that the midwives shall have full information concerning their patients.

The number of expectant mothers who attended the clinic was 301 and the total attendances was 973. This is approximately an increase of 50% over the figures for 1946.

Blood samples are taken from all expectant mothers and by arrangement with the Kent County Laboratory these are tested for blood grouping for the presence of Rhesus factor and for syphilis. The absence of the Rhesus factor in the mother's blood may cause hæmolytic disease of the new born infant ; the presence or absence of the factor together with the blood group should be known in cases where the mother requires a blood transfusion. Syphilis is one of the causes of stillbirths and is also a cause of serious illness in both mother and child. Whilst no abnormality is found in a large majority of cases and although the necessity for blood transfusion is not frequent, the investigation of the mother's blood as a routine procedure has saved some lives and prevented much ill health in Sheerness.

By arrangement with the Kent County Council expectant and nursing mothers can obtain dental treatment when necessary from the County Dental Officer and 43 women availed themselves of this service during 1947.

Approximately 84% of all expectant mothers in the town attended the clinic during the year. This is an increase of 14% over 1946.

Admission to hospital for confinement has had to be restricted on account of lack of accommodation and shortage of nursing staff to three priority classes.

These are : 1. Where hospital treatment is necessary on clinical grounds.

2. Where home conditions are unsuitable.

3. Expectant mothers having a first baby.

Comparatively very few of the third group were admitted in cases where neither of the previous conditions applied.

Of the 357 births in the area 107 were born at the County Hospital, Minster, and 17 were born in other hospitals.

Of the 8 stillbirths, 5 occurred in hospital and 3 at home.

HOME HELPS

The home help scheme which was started at the end of 1946 was continued throughout the year.

Home helps were employed on 21 cases during the year, the patient paying part or all of the cost according to their means. The home helps normally attend cases for fourteen days after the birth of the child, but can continue for a longer period where necessary on medical grounds. The average contribution to the wages of the home help which was paid by the Council amounted to £1 17s. 0d. per case.

It was not possible to extend the service during the year to cases other than maternity cases.

The scheme has been of considerable help to many expectant mothers whose houses were satisfactory but who were unable to make suitable domestic arrangements. It was, however, not fully satisfactory in all respects and some modifications have been made to the scheme since the end of 1947.

INFANT WELFARE

Infant Welfare Clinics are held every Tuesday and Friday at the Welfare Centre, Marine Parade. A Toddlers' Clinic is held on the first Wednesday of every month.

The number of children who attended the clinics was 806 and the total attendances numbered 8,780. Of these children 276 had not attained the age of one year by the end of the year. Thus approximately 77% of all children under the age of one and over 60% of all children under the age of five attended the clinic during the year. The percentages are only slightly higher than in 1946, but the total number of children is, of course, increasing, being approximately 112% of the 1946 total.

Foodstuffs, mainly proprietary brands of dried milk infant foods, amounting to £1,175 in value, were sold during the year. These foodstuffs were sold at cost price. The amount of food issued free was less than £3 in value.

Arrangements have been made with the Kent County Council that their consultants shall be available for children who attend the clinics and who are found to be suffering from defects of the eye, ear, nose and throat and teeth, and also cases requiring orthopædic treatment. This service has been found to be particularly useful in preventing the development of defects.

The increase in the work of clinics, together with the increase in clerical work has caused a reduction in the time allowed for home visiting and the number of home visits made by the Health Visitor was 2,323 as compared with 2,871 in 1946.

Mention must be made of the excellent work done by the voluntary helpers at the Welfare Centre. The work of the clinics must necessarily have been seriously curtailed but for their very willing and able assistance.

IMMUNISATION

DIPHTHERIA

The Diphtheria Immunisation programme has been continued energetically throughout the year. Immunisation is carried out at the Welfare Centre, Marine Parade, on the first Tuesday and first Friday of each month. The vaccine is supplied free of charge through the Kent County Council. It would appear that the advice at the Infant Welfare Clinic, together with the practice of sending reminders to parents shortly before a child's first birthday is responsible for the greater number of immunisations carried out, but the Government's publicity campaign, the cinema and other methods of informing parents have undoubtedly helped.

Children who had completed a course of immunisation by the end of the year were as follows:—

Below the age of 5 years, 747 or 55% and of these 242 were immunised during 1947.

Between 5 and 15 years, 1,514 or 76% and of these 458 were immunised during 1947.

All children below 15 years, 2,261 or 68%.

In addition 877 children below the age of 15 years had received a reinforcing or booster dose.

Children who had received only one injection are not included in the above figures.

WHOOPING COUGH

Immunisation against whooping cough is available free to all children below the age of 5 years resident within the Urban District of Sheerness at the same times and place as diphtheria immunisation. Three doses of Glaxo Alum Precipitated Whooping Cough (Pertussis) Vaccine are used and these are given at monthly intervals. Efforts are made to commence the immunisation at the age of 6 months.

Sufficient information has not yet been collected to give statistical proof of the efficiency of whooping cough immunisation, but it seems likely that an immunised child is much less likely to contract the disease and in those cases in which it does contract whooping cough the disease is less severe.

As immunisation against whooping cough only started in Sheerness during the autumn of 1946 there were no children fully immunised at the commencement of 1947. At the end of 1947 143 children had been fully immunised and a further 246 had received one or more injections.

A number of children have also been immunised by General Practitioners against diphtheria and against whooping cough but as private doctors are not paid fees for this service by the local authority full information concerning the numbers of children so immunised are not available. When the National Health Service Act, 1946, comes into force it is intended that the general practitioners shall be invited to take part in the scheme to immunise children against diphtheria and against smallpox (vaccination to protect against smallpox then being no longer compulsory) and presumably they will also be invited to partake in the whooping cough immunisation scheme.

SMALLPOX

The following figures have been supplied by the Public Vaccinator Dr. H. A. Madwar :

Primary vaccinations in 1947...	...	132
Re-vaccinations in 1947	...	92

HEALTH SERVICES DURING 1947

FEVER HOSPITAL

Keycol Hill Isolation Hospital, under the management of the Sittingbourne and Milton Joint Hospital Board, normally takes all infectious cases requiring hospital treatment, and special arrangements exist for the treatment of smallpox and ophthalmia neonatorum. Measles and whooping cough are not usually removed to hospital. 21 cases of infectious disease were admitted to the hospital during the year.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

This service is provided very efficiently by the Lethbridge Sick Nursing Society, 322, High Street, Sheerness.

The Kent County Council is the supervising authority for midwives

HOSPITAL

Provision is made for in-patient treatment of medical, surgical and maternity cases at the County Hospital, Minster.

Out-patient sessions are held at the following times :—

Monday, 2 p.m.	Surgical	Dr. P. Berry
Monday, 2 p.m.	Ante-Natal	Dr. F. Schmelz
Tuesday, 2 p.m.	Medical	Dr. D. H. Mills
Wednesday, 2 p.m.	Gynæcological	Dr. F. Schmelz
Thursday, 2 p.m.	Surgical	Dr. W. L. Wills

In addition, Mr. J. H. Mayer attends at the Orthopædic Clinic on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m., and Mr. E. P. Gill attends the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic at the hospital on the first, third and fifth Monday of each month at 10 a.m. X-ray facilities are also available at the hospital.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

There are two ambulances stationed at Trinity Road, Sheerness, one owned by the Sheerness U.D.C. and the other by the Sheerness Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Both ambulances are staffed by members of the S.J.A.B. and a very efficient service is provided not only for Sheerness, but also for cases from the Sheppey Rural District.

PATHOLOGICAL SERVICE

The County Laboratory is situated at the County Hall, Maidstone, and provides a free and comprehensive service for medical practitioners. Routine samples of milk and water supplies are sent to the Laboratory for examination and assistance is also available in the event of epidemics.

TUBERCULOSIS

The Visiting Tuberculosis Officer is Dr. S. Roy C. Price, and the Clinic is held at Granville Villa, Granville Road, Sheerness, on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of the month from 12 noon until 2 p.m.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The Visiting Venereologist is Dr. Ockwell and the Clinic is held at 61, Alma Road, Sheerness, men attending from 10-11 a.m. and women from 11-12 every Saturday.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

This service is under the control of Dr. A. Elliott, School Medical Officer for the County.

All schools are visited twice a year, and during their school life children are examined four times; if any diseases or defects requiring observation or treatment are detected, then further examinations are made at subsequent visits.

The Kent Education Committee provides a service of specialists for the treatment of teeth, eye and ear, nose and throat, orthopædic and psychological cases, while minor ailments are treated at the School Clinic, Granville Road, Sheerness.

WATER SUPPLY

The town has two pumping stations, the water in both cases being obtained from deep boreholes. At the Trinity Road station there are two boreholes, the water being raised from one by a submersible electric pump and from the other by air lift operated by steam plant. The submersible pump is more economical in action and the bore in which it is inserted gives a greater yield of water. The second borehole is not normally used, but is maintained as a stand-by supply.

At the Sheerness East station there is only one bore. A submersible electric pump was used there at one time, but following mechanical trouble its use was discontinued because as there is no second bore any breakdown involved a complete stoppage of supply from this station until repairs could be effected or other plant brought into use. At present water is raised by air lift operated by an electric air compressor and steam air compression plant is maintained for emergency use. Water is also obtained from the Sheppey Water Company to supplement the town's supply.

The population supplied numbers 14,320. Approximately 95% of inhabited houses have a piped supply into the house and the remainder are supplied by stand-pipe. In general the areas of Blue Town and Mile Town are supplied from the Trinity Road station and Marine Town and the new housing estates are supplied with water from the Sheerness East station, but connecting mains allow of alteration in the supply areas when necessary. The steel tank at Trinity Road has a capacity of 100,000 gallons and the reservoir at Southdown Road, Sheerness East, has a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons.

All water is chlorinated before distribution, but the reports of bacteriological examination have not been as satisfactory as in the previous year. The results of examination are shown below.

Source of supply	No. of samples taken	Number of organisms per cc capable of growth at				Number of samples in which <i>B. coli</i> (presumptive) present in 100 cc or less
		Average of all samples	Highest in any sample	Average of all samples	Highest in any sample	
Trinity Road						
Untreated	10	3	23	33	168	3
Trinity Road						
Treated	19	6	63	23	172	6
Sheerness East						
Untreated	10	2	9	7	25	7
Sheerness East						
Treated	24	4	42	68	760	3

A typical *B. coli* was found in 100 cc in one sample of untreated water from Trinity Road Pumping Station. In all other cases the *B. coli* were not typical.

In addition to the above samples there were six samples (two untreated and four treated) taken in October and November from the Trinity Road source in which the bacterial counts were abnormally high.

They were not included in the above table because they would have given an erroneous value to the average number of organisms. The counts ranged from 6 to 166 at 37°C and from 0 to 1,902 at 22°C. One sample contained a non-typical *B. coli* in 90 cc.

The report of the chemical analyses carried out in November, 1946, is given below.

					Sheerness East	Trinity Road
					Parts per	100,000
Total solid residuc	...	...	...	...	67.0	62.5
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	5.2	6.5
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.08	0.026
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.002	0.002
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	—	—
Oxygen absorbed $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 80°F.	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.04
.. .. 4 hours at 80°F.	...	...	...	...	0.05	0.07
Nitrates	...	...	...	...	—	Present

The water has no appreciable plumbo-solvent action.

Considerable difficulty was experienced with the supply of water throughout the year. The pumping machinery at Trinity Road broke down during January and the necessary delay before the steam plant could be brought into operation reduced the reserve water in the reservoir. The severe weather caused many bursts accompanied by further wastage. The spare submersible pump also developed defects and the submersible pumps did not work satisfactorily for the remainder of the year. Since the end of 1947 modifications to the pumps advised by the Engineer and by the makers appear to have resolved the difficulties, but throughout 1947 the pumping was mainly done by the steam operated air lift plant which produces a less quantity of water. The position was further aggravated by the breakdown of machinery at one of the pumping stations of the Sheppey Water Company so that the supply of water could not at all times be adequately supplemented and the domestic supply, which is always cut off for seven to eight hours during the night, was at times still further reduced.

The intermittent supply of water for domestic purposes is to be deplored not only on hygienic grounds, but because it renders the water supply more liable to contamination through defects in the distribution system. It would seem, however, that the position is unlikely to be changed for some time.

The total quantity of water supplied for all purposes was 147,338,000 gallons from the following sources :—

Trinity Road Pumping Station	...	66,568,000
Sheerness East Pumping Station	...	66,760,000
Bulk supply from Sheppey Water Co....		14,010,000

This gives an average daily consumption of 403,665 gallons or 28.1 gallons per head of population per day for all purposes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewage after collection is screened to remove the larger foreign bodies and is then pumped out to sea without further treatment. There are two main pumping stations, one at West Minster and the other on the canal at the south of the town. There are also four subsidiary pumping stations.

Apart from the provision of new sewers on the Council's No. 3 Housing Estate, no alterations to the sewage disposal system were made during the year.

HOUSING

The housing programme progressed fairly satisfactorily during the year, but delays were occasioned by the severe weather during the first three months of the year, and by difficulty in obtaining supplies of materials; in particular the special ranges for the new houses did not arrive in sufficient quantity towards the end of the year and completion of the houses was delayed.

Sixty-two permanent houses were completed for the Council during the year, and at the end of 1947 a further 66 houses and 6 bungalows were in course of construction. This gives the following totals since the war :—

Temporary houses completed	...	...	...	...	46
Permanent houses completed	...	...	...	...	64
Permanent houses and bungalows in course of construction					72
Temporary houses under construction	...	...	...	...	Nil

In addition another site for 202 houses was in an advanced state of preparedness at the end of 1947, having all sewers laid, 75% of water mains laid and approximately 40% of roads concreted. Three permanent houses had also been completed by private enterprise and a further 2 were under construction.

Although the population is approximately 2,000 fewer than in pre-war years, application for Council houses represent approximately 16% of the population of the town. A few houses fell out of use through extreme dilapidation whilst many more are occupied only because of the present acute shortage. A considerable number of complaints of defects were made during the year and it is possible that delay on the part of the owners or agents in carrying out repairs is in part due to the present cost of repairs together with rent restrictions. The number of building licences for essential repairs issued were :—

For over £100	...	...	12
For less than £100	...	...	148

The outline scheme for the re-development of the Mile Town area was published in September, 1947. This scheme envisages the clearance of practically the whole of this area and although many of the present houses are extremely dilapidated it has not been possible to carry out a comprehensive survey. It is unlikely that much progress can be made for a considerable time even if the general situation allowed of this type of improvement.

A.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	244
1 (b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	285
2 (a)	Number of houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	12
2 (b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	15
3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	55
4	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	229

B.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	127
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C.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

1	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	Nil
2	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	2
(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	2
3	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(b)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Number of visits of all kinds made by the Inspector 957

Notices served :—

Statutory	...	...	...	...	2
Informal	...	...	...	...	264

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	3
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	Nil
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	3
Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	37
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	21
Drainage cleansed	...	...	...	...	29
Drainage reconstructed	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	9
Refuse receptacles	...	...	...	...	86
Smoke nuisance	...	...	...	...	2
Yard paving	...	...	...	...	4
Dampness	...	...	...	...	35
Roofs and rain water pipes	...	...	...	...	72
Floors	...	...	...	...	25
Walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	52
Windows and ventilation	...	...	...	...	26
Baths, lavatory basins, washing coppers and sinks	...	...	...	...	19
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	31

PREMISES OR OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS

	No. in District	No. of visits in 1947	No. of faults & defects found	No. of faults & defects remedied
Bakehouses	4	9	—	—
Dairies	2	12	4	4
Slaughterhouses —				
Registered	5	not in use		
Licensed				
Other food preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection	26	208	9	9
Houses let in lodgings	1	3	1	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :—

	Number on Register	Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	8	2	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	44	24	5	Nil
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which defects were found :—

	No. found	No. remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	No. of Prose- cutions
Section 1 — want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—	—
Sections 2 to 6	Nil	—	—	—	—
Section 7 — defective sanitary conven- iences	5	5	—	—	—

3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111):—

Nature of work	No. of out-workers	Action under Secs. 110 and 111
Making wearing apparel	2	Nil
Others	Nil	Nil

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Number of rooms disinfected after infectious disease ...	25
Batches of clothing disinfected after infectious disease ...	36
No. of rooms disinfested for verminous conditions	86
No. of Council houses disinfested for vermin	1
Batches of bedding disinfested for vermin	22

MILK SUPPLY

The milk supply is principally through two large retailers and is sold as heat treated, one by rail from the West Country and the other from local farms. The premises of one small retailer were considered unsatisfactory and are only recognised for a further six months to enable alternative premises to be obtained.

Number of producers ...	Nil
Number of retailers ...	11
Number of wholesalers ...	1

UNSOUND FOOD

The following amounts were condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption :—

Meat ...	662 lbs.
Fish ...	1,332 lbs.
Butter and margarine ...	18 lbs.
Cereals ...	108½ lbs.
Cheese ...	68 lbs.
Milk ...	196 lbs.
Fruit and vegetables ...	85½ lbs.
Preserves ...	51 lbs.
Other foods ...	139 lbs.

Approximate total weight : 1 ton 3 cwt. 3 qrs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to Mr. S. Strugnell, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, for details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the Urban District of Sheerness during the year 1947.

Number of samples			Number of samples		
Baking Powder	...	2	Honey and Lemon...	...	1
Blood Mixture	...	2	Ice Cream	...	4
Cake Mixture	...	1	Influenza Mixture	...	1
Cocoa	...	1	Iron Tablets	...	1
Coffee	...	1	Jelly	...	1
Condensed Milk	...	1	Marmalade	...	1
Culinary Essence	...	2	Meat Paste	...	1
Fish Paste	...	5	Milk	...	30
Flour	...	1	Orange Squash	...	1
Gelatine	...	1	Sauce	...	1
Sausage	...	1	Semolina	...	1
Slippery Elm Food	...	1	Spirits	...	3
Sulphur Ointment	...	1	Sulphur Tablets	...	1
Tinned Fish	...	1	Vinegar	...	1
Zinc Ointment	...	1	Yorkshire Pudding Mixture	...	1

All samples genuine with the exception of the following:—Milk. Contained 9.3% extraneous water. Proceedings. Farmer fined £2.

MALARIA

Routine spraying of the ditches and standing water in the area was carried out from May until October. Many of the smaller ditches were badly overgrown with grass and weeds, but the supply of labour did not allow of their being adequately dealt with. The piping and filling in of many of the smaller ditches and the consequent destruction of the breeding places of mosquitoes would be of considerable use in minimising the nuisance from these insects.

One case of malaria which appears to have been contracted in the area was notified during the year.

MORTUARY

The mortuary is situated at the rear of the Council's premises in Trinity Road. Some minor improvements were carried out to provide for a better supply of hot water and better washing facilities. The mortuary is, however, very badly sited with a most unsatisfactory approach and the building itself is old, out of date, and not suitable for its purpose.

SWIMMING BATHS

The Aquarena was opened for the first time since the end of the war during May, 1947. The swimming pool is filled with sea water, which is constantly filtered and chlorinated. The filtration plant is capable of filtering and rechlorinating the whole contents of the bath in six hours.

Bacteriological examinations have shown that the residual chlorine in the water is capable of destroying all pathogenic bacteria even on those occasions, such as public holidays, when the baths have been extensively used.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1947
Compared with 1946, 1945, 1944 and 1943

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Death rate per 1,000 of population	14·6	11·7	12·9	13·0	13·8
Infant Mortality per 1,000 births ...	57·3	32·6	25·9	56·3	28·0
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	20·2	21·4	20·3	21·4	24·9
Notifiable Infectious Diseases, excluding Tuberculosis ...	385	66	237	175	385
Cases of Smallpox ...	0	0	0	0	0
Cases of Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0
Cases of Diphtheria ...	2	1	0	1	10
Cases of Scarlet Fever ...	32	13	11	11	8
Cases of Malaria ...	0	0	0	0	1
Cases of Measles ...	319	6	203	42	239
Cases of Whooping Cough ...	1	23	3	22	79
Cases of Tuberculosis notified ...	8	9	13	15	20
Deaths from Tuberculosis ...	8	6	5	7	3

INFANT MORTALITY

Causes of deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Month	Sex	Age	Cause
March	Male	1 month	Broncho pneumonia.
April	Female	11 months	Broncho pneumonia.
January	Female	3 months	Bilateral lobar pneumonia.
April	Male	3 hours	Prematurity.
January	Male	4 hours	Prematurity (28 weeks).
April	Male	9 hours	Prematurity (31 weeks).
February	Female	45 minutes	Prematurity. Hydramnios.
February	Female	3 days	Prematurity.
May	Female	5 weeks	Infantile diarrhoea and vomiting. Prematurity.
November	Male	2 weeks	Pulmonary collapse. Congenital atelectasis of lung. Congenital malformations.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1947

Net deaths at the subjoined ages of residents, whether occurring within or without the district.

Causes of Death	MALES								
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 years and over
1 Typhoid & parat. fevers ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Diphtheria ...	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
6 Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
7 Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Syphilitic diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Influenza ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 Ac. polio-myel & polio-enceph ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Ac. inf. encephalitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 Cancer, buc., cav, & oesoph. (M); uterus (F) ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
14 Cancer, stomach & duodenum ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
15 Cancer, breast ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 Cancer, all other sites ...	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10
17 Diabetes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10
19 Heart Disease ...	36	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	29
20 Other circulatory diseases ...	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
21 Bronchitis ...	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6
22 Pneumonia (all forms) ...	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
23 Other respiratory diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24 Ulcer, stomach or duodenum ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26 Appendicitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27 Other digestive diseases ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
28 Nephritis ...	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
29 Puerperal & post-abor. sepsis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 Other maternal causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 Premature birth ...	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32 Congenital mal., birth injury, infant diseases ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33 Suicide ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
34 Road traffic accidents ...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
35 Other violent causes ...	4	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1
36 All other causes ...	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
All causes	111	5	2	0	0	4	2	29	69

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1947

Net deaths at the subjoined ages of residents, whether occurring within or without the district.

FEMALES

Causes of Death

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 years and over
1 Typhoid & parat. fevers ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Whooping Cough ...	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
5 Diphtheria ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
6 Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
7 Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Syphilitic diseases ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
9 Influenza ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
0 Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 Ac. polio-myel & polio-enceph ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Ac. inf. encephalitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Cancer, buc., cav, & oesoph. (M); uterus (F) ...	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
4 Cancer, stomach & duodenum ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
5 Cancer, breast ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
6 Cancer, all other sites ...	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
7 Diabetes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8
9 Heart Disease ...	29	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	22
0 Other circulatory diseases ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1 Bronchitis ...	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
2 Pneumonia (all forms) ...	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
3 Other respiratory diseases ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
4 Ulcer, stomach or duodenum ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Appendicitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Other digestive diseases ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
8 Nephritis ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
9 Puerperal & post-abor. sepsis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0 Other maternal causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 Premature birth ...	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Congenital mal., birth injury, infant diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Suicide ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
4 Road traffic accidents ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Other violent causes ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
6 All other causes ...	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
All causes	87	5	1	1	0	0	8	20	52

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1947

Disease	Notified			Number removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths registered.
	Total	Males	Females		
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	10	6	4	10	3
Scarlet Fever	8	5	3	5	0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	2	2	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	1	0	0
Malaria	1	1	0	1	0
Erysipelas	6	2	4	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	1	1	2	0
Pneumonia	16	11	5	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	0	1	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	239	110	129	2	0
Whooping Cough	79	33	46	0	2
Chicken Pox	20	12	8	0	0
Totals	385	183	202	21	5

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	At all ages	At Ages and Years											
		Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	15 to 20 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 and over
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	10	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	2	1	1	0
Scarlet Fever	8	0	0	0	1	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Malaria	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Erysipelas	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	16	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	6	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	239	8	22	25	31	28	110	8	6	1	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	79	10	8	13	12	10	26	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicken Pox	20	0	1	2	2	0	6	5	2	2	0	0	0
Totals	385	21	33	41	48	41	150	15	10	10	5	8	3

TUBERCULOSIS

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 5 years ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5 to 15 years ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 to 25 years ...	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
25 to 35 years ...	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
35 to 45 years ...	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 to 55 years ...	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55 to 65 years ...	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals ...	12	6	1	1	2	1	0	0

Sheppey Rural District Council

1947

Chairman : A. J. ROBINSON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : T. H. DALE.

Councillors :

E. J. BONNEY.

A. P. DUMMOTT.

A. H. FOREMAN.

W. J. HAGGAR.

W/CMDR. W. E. JAMES.

A. JOHNSON, J.P.

H. C. LOVE.

C. LOVE, SEN.

C. LOVE, JUN.

B. J. MASCALL.

A. E. RICHARDS.

Clerk : S. P. WALTON.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

E. F. BRADING, A.R.S.I., M.INST.M AND CY.E., M.S.I.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
SHEERNESS.

June, 1948

To the Chairman and Members of the Sheppey Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In general the health of the population was satisfactory throughout 1947. There was a considerable increase in the number of notifiable infectious diseases, the number being due to the large number of cases of whooping cough and measles.

The Rural District of Sheppey is mainly agricultural and residential in character. It is generally recognised throughout the Isle of Sheppey that the most desirable residential sites are in this area and that the choice of sites is not strictly limited as is the case in the adjoining areas of Queenborough and Sheerness. This is reflected by the much larger number of houses built by private enterprise in the Rural District than in the other two areas.

By the end of 1947 a total of 90 permanent and prefabricated temporary houses had been erected since the end of the war, equivalent to an increase of $3\frac{1}{4}\%$ of the inhabited houses in the area. This is a greater increase than in the other two areas, but it must be remembered that the population of the Rural District is increasing much more rapidly and that the need for new houses is certainly no less than in neighbouring areas.

It has been possible by the conversion of huts in Bell Farm Camp to provide 50 additional family units for the temporary housing of those in urgent need and it was hoped that the more urgent needs of the whole Island would be met by a similar adaptation of Eastchurch Aerodrome, but unfortunately, military requirements prevented the conversion.

Additional difficulties in housing in the Rural District are due to the popularity of this part of the Island as a holiday resort. Before the war a number of small dwellings were built as summer residences and although they were not suitable for winter occupation they have been used for this purpose on account of the acute shortage. Sanitary facilities are also insufficient. In the parish of Leysdown in particular where there is no main drainage system, the cesspools are sufficient in number and size for the winter population, but they are quite inadequate for the large additional number of summer visitors who, during the fine summer of 1947, outnumbered the resident population. The same problem applies though less acutely to other parts of the area.

A good deal was done during 1947 to abolish cesspools and connect premises to existing sewers. Plans were also prepared for the extension

of the main drainage system in Minster, and steps were taken to acquire the system at Eastchurch Aerodrome with a view to its incorporation in a larger scheme. These projects will take a considerable time under the present economic circumstances, but it is recognised that together with other amenities an improvement of the system of sewage disposal will go far towards enhancing the area as a healthy, popular and remunerative holiday resort.

I wish to express my thanks to you and your staff for the help and encouragement which has been given to me throughout the year.

Your obedient servant,

R. DUNCAN DEWAR,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE SHEPPEY RURAL DISTRICT

Area	19,949
Population estimated for mid-1947 by Registrar-General ...	8,504
Number of inhabited houses in 1947	3,100
Rateable Value	£49,679
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£198

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births—	Total	Male	Female		
Legitimate	209	108	101	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the	
Illegitimate	15	7	8	estimated resident popula-	
Total	224	115	109	tion	26.3

Still Births—	3	2	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	13.2
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Deaths—	112	59	53	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.2
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Deaths from puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	—
Other puerperal causes	0	—
Total	0	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	44.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	—
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	47.8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

The mid-year population for 1947 was estimated by the Registrar-General at 8,504, which is an increase of 268 over the figure for 1946. Of this increase 100 are accounted for by the greater number of births than deaths.

The number of births registered during the year was 224, equivalent to a birth rate of 26.3 per 1,000 of population. This is an increase of 4.0 over the rate for 1946 and is 5.8 above the rate for England and Wales. The number of births is the highest ever recorded in the area. Fifteen of the births or 6.7% were illegitimate.

There were 112 deaths registered during 1947, equivalent to a death rate of 13.2 per 1,000 of the population. This is an increase of 1.6 over the rate for 1946 and is 1.2 above the rate for England and Wales. The higher number of deaths was mainly due to Tuberculosis 6, Cancer 18 and Respiratory diseases 12, the figures for 1946 being 1, 11 and 7 respectively. The number of deaths due to diseases of the heart and circulation was 47 compared with 50 during 1946.

There were 10 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infant mortality rate of 44.6. There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The increase in the number of acute notifiable infectious diseases was mainly due to measles, 192 cases, and whooping cough, 80 cases. An epidemic of measles occurred at the Eastchurch Families' Camp amongst the children of Service personnel. The General Practitioner attending these cases was supplied with measles convalescent serum from the Kent County Laboratory, and it was reported that amongst the younger children for whom the serum was mainly used the disease was modified. There were two deaths from measles in the area during the year.

There were no deaths from any of the other acute notifiable infectious diseases.

POLIOMYELITIS

One case of poliomyelitis occurred during May, 1947. This was some time before the epidemic throughout the country assumed large proportions. The case occurred in a child of four years, who was a visitor to the area, and it appears certain that he was infected in another district. The child was admitted to the County Hospital, Minster, where he remained for about eight months. He had some residual paralysis on discharge.

Several notifications were reported from other districts of cases of poliomyelitis occurring in persons who had previously been on holiday in this area, but as far as could be ascertained none of the cases were infected in this area and no cases occurred amongst persons residing here.

TUBERCULOSIS

Nine new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. Of these seven were pulmonary and two non-pulmonary cases. During the year there were six deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and no deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

During 1946 for all types of tuberculosis there were eleven new cases and no deaths.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

These clinics are provided by the Kent County Council and are held at the Working Men's Club, Minster, every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Dr. M. F. McNamara is the Medical Officer.

INFANT WELFARE.

These clinics are provided by the Kent County Council and are held at the following times and places :—

Minster—Liberty Hall, Minster, 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday at 2 p.m.
Medical Officer—Dr. M. F. McNamara.

Eastchurch—Working Men's Club, 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 2 p.m.
Medical Officer—Dr. Jill Hutt.

Halfway—Conservative Hall, every Friday at 1.30 p.m.
Medical Officer—Dr. M. F. McNamara.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation is carried out at all the Infant Welfare Clinics and also by general medical practitioners. Payment is made for these services by arrangement with the Kent County Council. Immunisation has also been carried out at the schools and at the School Clinic.

At the end of 1947 the position was as follows :—

	Age groups in years			
	0-4	5-9	10-14	0-14
Number of children given a full course of immunisation during 1947	188	173	91	452
Number of children given re-inforcing doses during 1947	1	315	209	525
Total numbers now fully immunised .	522	592	336	1450
% of children fully immunised	57.3%	75.4%		67.7%

The increase in the number of children protected against this disease is very satisfactory.

VACCINATION.

Dr. H. A. Madwar, the Public Vaccinator, has supplied me with the following figures :—

Primary vaccinations during 1947 103

FEVER HOSPITAL.

Keycol Hill Isolation Hospital, under the management of the Sittingbourne and Milton Joint Hospital Board, normally takes all the infectious cases requiring hospital treatment, and special arrangements exist for the treatment of smallpox and ophthalmia neonatorum. Measles and whooping cough are not usually removed to hospital. Nine cases of infectious disease were admitted to the hospital during the year.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING.

This service is performed by the Minster Sick Nursing Association, and their address is 5, Queen's Road, Minster. The Kent County Council is the supervising authority for midwives.

HOME HELPS.

A Home Help scheme provided by the County Council is in operation in the area.

HOSPITAL.

Provision is made for in-patient treatment of medical, surgical and maternity cases at the County Hospital, Minster

Out-patient sessions are held at the following times.

Monday, 2 p.m.	Surgical	Dr. P. Berry
Monday, 2 p.m.	Ante-Natal	Dr. F. Schmelz
Tuesday, 2 p.m.	Medical	Dr. D. H. Mills
Wednesday, 2 p.m.	Gynæcological	Dr. F. Schmelz
Thursday, 2 p.m.	Surgical	Dr. W. L. Wills

In addition, Mr. J. H. Mayer attends at the Orthopædic Clinic on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. and Mr. E. P. Gill attends the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic at the hospital on the first, third and fifth Monday of each month at 10 a.m. X-ray facilities are also available at the hospital.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

There is no Ambulance stationed in the Rural District but the area is served by the Sheerness and Queenborough S.J.A.B. Ambulances.

PATHOLOGICAL SERVICE.

The County Laboratory is situated at the County Hall, Maidstone, and provides a free and comprehensive service for medical practitioners. Routine samples of water and milk supplies are sent to the Laboratory for examination and assistance is also available in the event of epidemics.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Visiting Tuberculosis Officer is Dr. S. Roy C. Price, and the Clinic is held at Granville Villa, Granville Road, Sheerness, on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of the month from 12 noon until 2 p.m.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The Visiting Venereologist is Dr. Ockwell and the Clinic is held at 61, Alma Road, Sheerness, men attending from 10-11 a.m., and women from 11-12 noon every Saturday.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

This service is under the control of Dr. A. Elliott, School Medical Officer of the county.

All schools are visited twice a year and during their school life children are examined four times; if any disease or defects requiring

observation or treatment are detected, then further examinations are made at subsequent visits.

The Kent Education Committee provides a service of specialists for the treatment of teeth, eye and ear, nose and throat, orthopædic cases and psychological cases, while minor ailments are dealt with at the School Clinic, Granville Road, Sheerness.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA WATER

There are three main sources of supply in the district, all the water being obtained from deep boreholes. The Sheppey Rural District Council have a pumping station at Warden; the Sheppey Water Company have pumping stations at Wall End, at Minster, and at Water Lane, Eastchurch; and the Leysdown Water Company have a bore at Leysdown. After very prolonged negotiations the Leysdown Water Company's bore was taken over by the Rural District Council at the end of 1947. The above sources supply the parishes of Minster, Eastchurch, Warden and Leysdown. The parishes of Elmley and Harty are supplied from private wells.

The numbers of houses supplied are as follows :—

	Pipe to House	Houses supplied by Standpipe	Wells
Parish of Minster	2,116	—	—
Parish of Eastchurch	410	—	—
Parish of Leysdown	200	—	—
Parish of Warden	100	—	—
Parishes of Elmley and Harty	—	—	30

Exact details of the quantity of water supplied are not available, but the amount of water per head supplied for all purposes amounts to about 21 gallons per day.

Owing to breakdown of the pumping machinery the pumping station at Eastchurch was out of action from June, and the Warden station was out of action from October. Neither of these pumping stations was repaired by the end of the year. To make up for these deficiencies additional water was supplied by the Sheppey Water Company, mainly from the Wall End bore.

A number of complaints were received concerning the quality of the water at Eastchurch, which on occasions contained large amounts of sand and grit. This difficulty was finally overcome by modification in the method of pumping.

All the water supplied for domestic use is chlorinated, but a breakdown in the chlorination plant at the Leysdown Pumping Station occurred in October, 1947, and bacteriological examination of the water showed evidence of faecal contamination. The public were thereupon warned by notices posted locally and by notices in the local press that all water for domestic purposes should be boiled before use. The chlorination plant was repaired in about two weeks and the bacteriological reports have since been satisfactory.

The bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Kent County Laboratory and the results are summarised below.

Source	Number of organisms per cc. capable of growth at					Number of samples in which <i>B. coli</i> (presumptive) found in 100 cc or less
	Number of Samples	37°C		22°C		
		Average of all Samples	Highest in any Sample	Average of all Samples	Highest in any Sample	
Warden						
Treated	6	0	0	0	0	0
Leysdown						
Treated	11	11	60	58	200	4
					Typical <i>B. coli</i> in 3	
Wall End						
Treated	12	less than 1	2	less than 1	4	0
Minster						
Treated	11	1	4	19	176	0
Minster						
Unreated	5	5	15	24	54	2

Two samples which showed very high counts are not included above as they would give an erroneous idea of the average sample. They are as follows :—

Source	Date	Number of organisms per cc capable of growth at		Remarks
		37°C	22°C	
Warden				
Sheppey R.D.C.	25. 9.47	50	253	Typical <i>B. coli</i> found in 1 cc.
Minster				
Sheppey Wat Co.	23.10.47	1268	2113	<i>B. coli</i> presumptive in 1 cc. Typical <i>B. coli</i> in 10 cc.

The results of Chemical Analyses are given below :—

	Wallend	Eastchurch	Warden	Leysdown
	Parts per 100,000			
Total solid residue ...	66.0	47.0	60.5	66.0
Chlorine	5.1	5.4	12.0	12.0
Free Ammonia	0.08	0.004	0.040	0.040
Albuminoid Ammonia .	0.002	None	0.002	0.004
Nitrogen at Nitrates	—	0.05	—	—
Oxygen absorbed				
$\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 80°F	0.02	0.012	0.026	0.12
Oxygen absorbed				
4 hours at 80°F	0.05	0.027	0.052	0.22
Nitrites		Present	Very faint	Very faint
Hardness—			Trace	Trace
Permanent		6.0	None	None
Temporary		0.2	None	None
Total		6.2	None	None

HOUSING

The housing programme progressed slowly at the beginning of 1947 mainly on account of shortage of labour, but some difficulty was also experienced throughout the year in obtaining adequate supplies of material.

During the year 28 permanent houses were completed for the Council, two of these being Airey houses for the accommodation of agricultural workers. The number of Airey houses approved for the area was 24, but initially there was much delay in the approval of sites for these houses and the completion of the first pair was delayed for some months because some minor components were not available. The number of permanent houses under construction for the Council at the end of the year was 52.

In addition 16 houses were completed by private enterprise and 4 were under construction.

The number of building licences issued for essential repairs was as follows :—

For over £100	...	...	...	...	35
For less than £100	...	...	...	...	231

Whilst the total number of new houses built for the Council and by private enterprise since the end of the war is fairly satisfactory the number of applicants for Council houses is increasing rather than diminishing, and this is in spite of efforts to ensure that applicants are not also included in the housing lists of adjoining authorities.

Many of the older buildings in the district are in a bad state of repair and a large number cannot be made satisfactory in all respects and must be demolished when circumstances will allow.

Bell Farm Camp has provided temporary accommodation for about 10 families and this has been of considerable help in assisting the most necessitous cases. The camp was loaned to the Local Authority for temporary housing for a period of two years, but it is anticipated that the housing situation will not be substantially relieved at the end of this time, and it is hoped that the period will be extended.

A. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	154
1(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	318
2(a)	Number of houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	Nil
2(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
4	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	154

B. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	146
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C. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

1. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	Nil
2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(b) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	Nil
3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(a) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(b) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No large extensions of the main drainage system were made during 1947, but a number of houses which had previously had cesspools were connected to the existing main drainage system.

The methods of sewage disposal in the various parishes are given below. The figures in brackets are corresponding figures for 1946.

Parish	Main Drainage	Cesspools	Pail Closets
Minster	1977 (1886)	182 (267)	159 (176)
Eastchurch	107 (97)	247 (247)	180 (183)
Warden	— (—)	127 (127)	19 (19)
Leysdown	— (—)	191 (190)	71 (72)
Harty and Elmley	— (—)	23 (23)	21 (21)

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Number of visits of all kinds made by the Inspector 1,483
 Notices served :—

Statutory	Nil
Informal	43

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

Keeping of animals	4
Sanitary accommodation—	
Insufficient	60
Defective	2
Drainage :—	
Reconstructed	46
Repaired	6
Cleansed	99
Offensive accumulations	2
Water supplies	1
Refuse receptacles	1
Yard paving	1
Dampness	4
Roofs and rain water pipes	26
Floors	22
Walls and ceilings	51
Windows and ventilation	4
Baths, lavatory basins and sinks	10

PREMISES OR OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS

	No. in District	No. of visits in 1947	No. of faults & defects found	No. of faults & defects remedied
Bakehouses	1	1	Nil	Nil
Dairies	14	40	5	3
Slaughterhouses—licenced ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other food preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection	1	1	Nil	Nil
Offensive Trades	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

	No. on Register	Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	10	1	Nil
Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	13	13	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	No. found	No. remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	No. by H.M. Inspector	No. of pro- secutions
Sections 1 to 6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sections 7 — Insufficient sanitary conveniences .	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

3.—OUTWORK (SECTIONS 110 and 111):

Making of wearing apparel	2
Action required under Sec. 110 and 111	Nil

UN SOUND FOOD

The amount of food condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption was 5cwt. 2qrs. 1lb.

Meat	...	...	...	...	154lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	448lbs.
Cereals	...	...	...	...	11lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	4lbs.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Number of rooms disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	18
Number of batches of clothing disinfected	...	...	19
Number of rooms disinfested for verminous conditions	...	...	1
Number of Council houses disinfested for verminous conditions	...	...	Nil

MILK SUPPLY

Number of producers	...	...	...	13
Number of producer retailers	...	...	...	8
Number of retailers	...	...	...	1
Number of farms licensed to produce:				
Accredited Milk	...	...	...	1
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	1

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to Mr. S. Strugnell, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for Details of Samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the Sheppey Rural District during the year 1947.

	Number of samples		Number of samples
Baking Powder	...	Jam	...
Bicarbonate of Soda	...	Jelly	...
Butter	...	Margarine	...
Chemical Food	...	Milk	...
Coffee and Chicory	...	Mince meat	...
Cooking Fat	...	Mustard	...
Cough Mixture	...	Pepper	...
Crunchets	...	Spirits	...
Fish Paste	...	Vita-Gravy	...
Throat Tablets	...	Wine Essence	...
Ground Rice	...		

All samples genuine with the exception of the following:—

Milk. 6.6% deficient in fat. Further samples taken and found to be genuine.

MALARIA

Ditches and standing water in the neighbourhood of dwellings were sprayed at regular intervals so far as labour would allow, but in a rural area it is impracticable to destroy all the breeding places or to control adequately those which cannot be destroyed.

During the year it appeared that there might be a danger of the spread of malaria by reason of the Eastchurch Aerodrome buildings being used by the War Office for the temporary housing of the families of service men returning from abroad. The military authorities have, however, taken all practicable steps to reduce the mosquito population and prevent the spread of malaria.

There were no cases of malaria notified in the district during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1947
Compared with 1946, 1945, 1944 and 1943

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Death rate per 1,000 of population	10·8	11·5	9·5	11·6	13·2
Infant Mortality per 1,000 births ...	51·3	54·6	5·5	38·0	44·6
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	22·2	25·4	24·1	22·3	26·3
Total Infectious Disease excluding Measles and Tuberculosis ...	32	123	36	117	124
Cases of Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0
Cases of Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0
Cases of Diphtheria	1	0	0	1	1
Cases of Scarlet Fever	10	3	4	4	7
Cases of Tuberculosis notified ...	5	6	11	11	9
Deaths from Tuberculosis	4	2	4	1	6
Cases of Malaria	1	0	0	0	0

INFANT MORTALITY

Causes of deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Month	Sex	Age	Cause
April	Female	7 hours	Prematurity.
September	Male	20 minutes	Premature twin birth, six months' pregnancy.
September	Male	1 hour	Premature twin birth, six months' pregnancy.
March	Female	9 days	Broncho pneumonia. Congenital atelectasis of lungs.
August	Female	3 minutes	Cerebral hæmorrhage. Torn calyx cerebri.
September	Male	1 month	Broncho pneumonia. Prematurity.
November	Female	3 days	Intra cranial hæmorrhage.
December	Female	6 hours	Cerebral hæmorrhage. Precipitate labour.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1947

Causes of Death	Net deaths at the subjoined ages of residents, whether occurring within or without the district.								
	MALES								
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 years and over
Typhoid & parat. fevers ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ac. polio-myel & polio-enceph ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ac. inf. encephalitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer, buc., cav, & oesoph. (M); uterus (F) ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cancer, stomach & duodenum ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Cancer, breast ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer, all other sites ...	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	5
Diabetes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Heart Disease ...	20	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	14
Other circulatory diseases ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bronchitis ...	7	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other respiratory diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ulcer, stomach or duodenum ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appendicitis ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other digestive diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nephritis ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Puerperal & post-abor. sepsis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other maternal causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Premature birth ...	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital mal., birth injury, infant diseases ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicide ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Road traffic accidents ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other violent causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All other causes ...	8	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	4
All causes	59	4	0	1	0	2	5	10	37

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1947

Net deaths at the subjoined ages of residents, whether occurring within or without the district.

Causes of Death	FEMALES								
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 years and over
1 Typhoid & parat. fevers ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
7 Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Syphilitic diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Influenza ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Measles ...	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 Ac. polio-myel & polio-enceph ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Ac. inf. encephalitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 Cancer, buc., cav. & oesoph. (M); uterus (F) ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
14 Cancer, stomach & duodenum ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 Cancer, breast ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
16 Cancer, all other sites ...	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
17 Diabetes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6
19 Heart Disease ...	15	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	11
20 Other circulatory diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 Bronchitis ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
22 Pneumonia (all forms) ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
23 Other respiratory diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24 Ulcer, stomach or duodenum ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
25 Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26 Appendicitis ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
27 Other digestive diseases ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
28 Nephritis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29 Puerperal & post-abor. sepsis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 Other maternal causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 Premature birth ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32 Congenital mal., birth injury infant diseases ...	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33 Suicide ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34 Road traffic accidents ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 Other violent causes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36 All other causes ...	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
All causes	53	6	1	0	3	1	3	11	28

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1947

Disease	Notified			Number removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths registered.
	Total	Males	Females		
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	1	0	1	1	0
Scarlet Fever	7	4	3	3	0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	1	0	0
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	2	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	2	2	2	0
Pneumonia	22	11	11	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	0	1	0
Measles	192	107	85	1	2
Whooping Cough	80	36	44	0	0
Chicken Pox	6	5	1	0	0
Totals	316	166	150	9	2

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	At all ages	At Ages and Years											
		Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	15 to 20 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 and over
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	7	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	22	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	6	9
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	192	4	20	25	14	17	104	6	0	2	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	80	10	8	10	10	6	32	1	1	1	1	0	0
Chicken Pox	6	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	316	19	30	37	24	24	144	12	3	5	2	7	9

TUBERCULOSIS

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 5 years ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 to 15 years ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15 to 25 years ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
25 to 35 years ...	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
35 to 45 years ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 to 55 years ...	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
55 to 65 years ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
65 and over ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals ...	5	2	2	0	3	3	0	0

METEOROLOGY

Meteorological observations have not been recorded at Sheerness since 1939, but Mr. E. W. Cooper, M.B.A.A., of Ad Astra, Warden Point, has very kindly supplied me with the following summary and records taken at his private observatory.

The year 1947 produced a variety of extremes. From the middle of January until the 17th March the night temperatures only rose above freezing point on five nights. The day temperatures during the same period were above freezing point on 18 days only.

The temperatures recorded from May 14th onwards were well above the average, the highest reached in Sheppey being recorded on June 1st with 84°F. The rest of England had a very hot period in August, but a steady sea breeze from the N.E. and E.N.E. during that month tempered the worst heat to bearable proportions on the Island. I would add that the splendid summer weather carried on well into the Autumn, as late as November 11th the mercury rose to 60°F and on the 12th to 59°F.

The total rainfall for 1947 was below the average. Practically no rain fell during August, whilst the rainfall of June was nearly all convective rain due to thunderstorms which occurred on the 6th, 21st, 27th and 28th of the month.

The total sunshine recorded in Sheppey was 1,867 hours, giving a daily average of 5.1. The total is 220 hours in excess of the average amount recorded by the Meteorological Office for S.E. England over a period of years.

TEMPERATURE

	Mean of maximum	Mean of minimum	Highest maximum	Date	Lowest minimum	Date
	°F	°F	°F		°F	
January	35.5	31.7	52	14	13	29
February	29.5	27.4	36	26	17	24
March	40.4	34.7	52	16,21,22	24	1,3
April	49.2	42.1	68	16	32	5
May	57.9	48.8	77	14	39	3
June	62.7	53.9	84	1	46	6
July	64.9	57.2	79	16	48	6,8
August	67.3	61.3	75	3,4	53	7
September	62.7	55.8	78	15	45	30
October	52.2	46.4	69	6	39	21
November	47.1	42.2	60	11	29	27
December	42.3	38.4	54	27	22	1
Year	50.97	44.99	84	June 1	13	Jan. 29

WIND DIRECTION

	Calm	No. of observations							
		N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
January	—	1	3	4	14	1	5	3	—
February	—	5	5	6	8	—	1	1	2
March	1	2	1	3	2	8	9	3	2
April	—	2	4	2	2	2	14	3	1
May	1	2	2	5	7	4	6	2	2
June	1	1	2	3	4	4	9	4	2
July	1	1	3	4	3	4	9	3	3
August	—	3	17	4	2	—	2	2	1
September	1	2	2	5	1	7	5	3	4
October	7	1	4	11	—	1	2	3	2
November	2	4	1	1	1	2	9	7	3
December	1	6	1	1	1	1	7	8	5
Year	15	30	45	49	45	34	78	42	27

RAINFALL, SUNSHINE AND BAROMETRIC PRESSURE

	Rainfall (inches)	Sunshine (hours)	Above or below average (hrs.)	Pressure (millibars)
January	2.10	87.3	+ 35	1016.5
February	1.02	38.2	- 36	1006.8
March	4.00	99.9	- 22	1000.0
April	1.08	222.1	+ 53	1018.5
May	0.50	246.5	+ 32	1018.0
June	2.40	252.4	+ 36	1030.0
July	1.50	212.8	- 4	1017.0
August	0.07	281.1	+ 80	1023.0
September	1.02	182.9	+ 19	1020.1
October	0.25	123.9	+ 16	1022.9
November	1.13	75.3	+ 11	1014.0
December	2.46	44.7	—	1014.5
Totals for year	17.53	1867.1	+ 220	—
Monthly averages .	1.46	155.6		1016.8

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Since writing the report additional information has been received concerning the services for which the Kent County Council as the Local Authority will be responsible after 5th July, 1948, and other complementary services.

A brief extract of the information which applies to the Isle of Sheppey is given below. Further information can be obtained from Public Health Department, Trinity Road, Sheerness.

The health services provided by the Kent County Council are, as a whole, controlled by the County and School Medical Officer, Dr. A. Elliott, M.D., County Hall, Maidstone. Telephone 4321.

ISLE OF SHEPPEY AREA

	Telephone
District Officer :	
Mr. W. I. Porter, 12, West Street, Faversham.	2568
Sub-District Officers :	
Mr. S. D. Rodwell	
Mr. M. Clegg	
34, Winstanley Road, Sheerness.	341
Health Visitor, Queenborough :	
Miss E. A. Johnson, School Clinic, Granville Road, Sheerness.	2557
Health Visitor, Sheerness :	
Miss F. G. Jones, Welfare Centre, Marine Parade, Sheerness.	137
Health Visitor, Sheppey :	
Miss G. Parry, School Clinic, Granville Road, Sheerness.	2557
Midwives and Home Nurses :	
Queenborough :	
Miss M. M. Deegan, 55, Harold Street, Queenborough.	147
Sheerness :	
Miss Rumbelow, Senior Queen's Nurse, 322, High Street, Sheerness.	213
Sheppey :	
Miss Q. K. Hopcroft, Montrose, Scarborough Drive, Minster.	324
Miss E. E. Lonnon, 5, Queen's Road, Minster.	238
Miss D. W. Page, Cositor, Waverley Avenue, Minster.	203

DISTRICT SERVICES

Hospitals :

County Hospital, Sheppey.	Phone : Minster (Sheerness)	316
Faversham Cottage Hospital.	Phone : Faversham	2503
Sittingbourne and District Memorial Hospital.	Phone : Sittingbourne	10
Keycol Hill Hospital (Infectious Diseases).	Phone : Newington	22
Milton Institution.	Phone : Sittingbourne	68

Medical Loan Depots :

Sheerness (B.R.C.S.), 4 Dockyard Terrace. By appointment with Mrs. Baillie. Phone : Sheerness 60.

Ambulance Stations :

Sheerness (St. John), Council Depot, Trinity Road, Sheerness.
Phone : Sheerness 2395.

Neighbouring Ambulance Stations are situated at Sittingbourne, Faversham, Chatham and Rochester.

Ministry of National Insurance :

Sheerness Local Office : 133/5, High Street, Sheerness.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics :

Queenborough : Rear of Town Hall, Whiteway Road. 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Sheerness : Welfare Centre, Marine Parade. Every Thursday at 2 p.m.

Sheppey : Liberty Hall, Minster. Every Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Infant Welfare Clinics :

Queenborough : Rear of Town Hall, Whiteway Road. Every Monday, at 2 p.m.

Sheerness : Welfare Centre, Marine Parade.

Every Tuesday and Friday at 2 p.m.

Toddlers, 1st Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Sheppey : Eastchurch, Working Men's Club. 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Minster, Liberty Hall. 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Halfway, Conservative Hall. Every Friday at 2 p.m.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX AND IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Facilities are available free of cost at all Infant Welfare Clinics and all medical practitioners have been invited to participate in the scheme. Vaccine lymph and immunising material available from the County Hall, Maidstone.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

All births now to be notified within 36 hours to County Medical Officer.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

Special outfits for use when premature infants are to be nursed at home are available to doctor or midwife from the Surgeon Superintendent, County Hospital, Minster, Sheppey.

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS. CARE AND AFTER CARE

Special provisions for persons suffering from tuberculosis are available through the Kent County Council or through the Kent Council of Social Services, 1, Holmside Terrace, Folkestone. Telephone : Folkestone 2333.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The Visiting Venereologist is Dr. Ockwell, and the Clinic is held at 61, Alma Road, Sheerness, men attending from 10-11 a.m. and women from 11-12 noon every Saturday.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Medical and dental inspections are provided at regular intervals for all children attending schools maintained by the Kent Education Committee. As far as practicable parents are given the opportunity to attend on the occasion of **all** medical inspections and of the **first** dental inspection of the pupil.

The following specialist clinic services are provided by the Council.

Ophthalmic.

Diseases of ear, nose and throat.

Speech,

Child Guidance.

Orthopædic.

Parents attend by appointment.

Clinics for dental and orthodontic services and a minor ailment clinic are held at Granville Villa, Granville Road, Sheerness.

